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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072935
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072935

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOF, EAID, LT

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH LESOTHAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO

1. ON MARCH 30 GOL FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO, PAID CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICA, LESOTHO'S NEED FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID, AND ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL ROADS AND AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. MOLAPO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TEBOHO MASHOLOGU, PERM SEC IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THABO MAKEKA, GOL AMBASSADOR TO US, AND MOOKI MOLAPO, GOL PERM SEC TO THE UN.

2. MOLAPO DESCRIBED DETERIORATING SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EMPHASIZING LESOTHO'S PROBLEMS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID BANTUSTAN POLICY IS AIMED AT DIVIDING BLACK AFRICANS, AND IS CREATING SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR COUNTRIES
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LIKE LESOTHO AND BOTSWANA. MOLAPO SAID LESOTHO FAVORS PEACEFUL CHANGE BECAUSE LESOTHO WOULD BE DESTROYED IF WAR DEVELOPS. HE URGED US TO APPLY MORE PRESSURE ON VORSTER. IN HIS REPLY, AMB. SEELYE NOTED OUR COOPERATION WITH BRITISH IN SEEKING SOLUTION IN ZIMBABWE, OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE IN NAMIBIA CONSISTENT WITH UN RESOLUTION 385, AND THE PROBLEMS WE FACE IN MAKING PROGRESS WITH SOUTH

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AFRICA ON ITS APARTHEID SYSTEM.

3. MOLAPO SAID REPORT OF FARAH MISSION, WHICH VISITED LESOTHO IN RESPONSE TO UNSC RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LESOTHO'S NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WILL DETAIL LESOTHO'S ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS. HE SAID LESOTHO NEEDED $10 MILLION IN AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ITS PROGRAM TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN MAIZE PRODUCTION. HE EMPHASIZED SHORT-TERM NEED FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE IN JUNE-SEPTEMBER PERIOD. HE ALSO REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL ROADS AS CRUCIAL FOR AIDING RURAL POOR. MOLAPO DESCRIBED NEW AIRPORT AS IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN LESOTHO'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH REST OF BLACK AFRICA. MASHOLOGU DISCUSSED CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER DONORS AND SAID COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF AIRPORT SUGGESTS IT COULD BE VIABLE IN FIVE YEARS. IN HIS REPLY, AMB. SEELYE SAID WE WOULD STUDY FARAH REPORT AND COORDINATE ANY POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION WITH OTHER DONORS. HE NOTED OUR PREFERENCE FOR PROJECTS WITH DIRECT BENEFIT TO RURAL POOR. MAKEKA MENTIONED JUNE MEETING OF DONORS TO REVIEW FARAH REPORT AND COORDINATE ASSISTANCE.
CHRISTOPHER

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